Teaching with Poetry & Rhymes
Teaching with Poetry
Curriculum Materials Center
David & Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University

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A selection of poetry resources that can be used for lesson planning in the PreK to Grade 12 classroom.

TEACHING RESOURCES


Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB1576 .H846 2010


Call Number: Curr.Mats. PN1101 .S58 2004

Call Number: Curr.Mats. PS586.3 .P64 2013
Call Number: Curr.Mats. PS586.3 .P643 2015

Call Number: Curr.Mats. PE1449 .W434 2008

The following selections are organized by curriculum areas, based upon their subject matter, visual imagery, and /or language. Some selections could be used in more than one curriculum area.

**ART & MUSIC:**

In the rhythm of a familiar folk song, a child cannot resist adding one more dab of paint in surprising places.
Call Number: PJ Bea

Poems that portray the essence of the season between summer and winter.
Call Number: j811.54 Flo

More than 50 poems with an accompanying CD introduce poetry with a beat.
Call Number: j811 Hip

A compilation of poems inspired by American art in the twentieth century.
Call Number: j811 Hea

In this version of a familiar song, baby animals ride to the children’s zoo on the zoo train.
Call Number: [Big Book] j782.42 Hil

Profiles twenty-six of the jazz greats using a different type of poem for each.
Call Number: j811.6 Mar
A rhyming tribute to a budding young artist.
**Call Number: PJ McD**

A look at the female jazz band that originated from Mississippi and found its way to the most famous ballrooms in the United States.
**Call Number: j781.65 Nel**

A recollection, in verse, of many famous African American artists and musicians.
**Call Number: j811.54 Sha**

A cumulative folk song with illustrations that reveal all that the old lady swallows.
**Call Number: [Big Book] PJ Tab 2000**

**LANGUAGE ARTS & LITERATURE:**

A picture book biography of William Carlos Williams that traces the childhood events that led him to become a doctor and poet.
**Call Number: j811.52 Bry**

Journey through the history and highlights of the world’s poetry. Covers epics and odes, nonsense verse and haiku. CD included.
**Call Number: j811.008 Dri**

A biography and introduction to the work of the Japanese haiku poet whose love for nature finds expression in the more than thirty poems included in this book.
**Call Number: j895.6 Gol**

The author interprets the people, events, influences and art that made up the brief life of Sylvia Plath.
**Call Number: j811.6 Hem**
After her ex-boyfriend shoots himself Emily is sent to a boarding school. There she expresses herself through poetry as she copes with her guilt.

**Call Number:** J Hub

Watercolor works of arts with rhyming text celebrate African American ancestors.

**Call Number:** j811.52 Hug

A collection of poetry by famous American poets from all geographic regions and different ethnicities in America.

**Call Number:** j811.3 Ove

Presents lively examples of twenty-nine poetic forms demonstrating the rules and spirit that brings these forms to life.

**Call Number:** j811.008 Kic

A collection of concrete poems that create playful images of its subject through the arrangement of letters, use of blank spaces and bold typefaces.

**Call Number:** j811.008 Pok

An illustrated collection of sixty-four traditional nursery rhymes.

**Call Number:** j398.8 Mav

Elinor usually does well in school until Poem in Your Pocket Day approaches and she struggles to write the perfect poem.

**Call Number:** PJ McN

Sepia tone stylized drawings enhance this familiar chanting rhyme about a radiant maiden and a terrifying black-beaked monster.

**Call Number:** j811.3 Poe
Jack, a railroad switchman, frantically tries to save an ant who is heading east on a westbound track, straight into the path of an oncoming freight train.

**Call Number:** PJ Pri

From undies to jammies to a much-loved hand-me-down sweatshirt, the talking clothes in these poems know just who they are and who’s wearing them.

**Call Number:** j811.54 Sch

More than one hundred and thirty never-before-seen poems and drawings completed by Shel Silverstein.

**Call Number:** j811.54 Sil

**MATHEMATICS:**

A collection of poems about chocolate which includes several math riddles.

**Call Number:** j811.54 Ado

A rhyming text demonstrates how to take one number away from another.

**Call Number:** j513.21 Cle

A rhyming countdown of the days of the week as a father and child find ways to spend time together while waiting for the weekend.

**Call Number:** PJ Lev

Numbers from one to one hundred climb to the top of an apple tree in this rhyming chant.

**Call Number:** PJ Mar
Text and pictures try to make possible the conceptualization of a million, a billion, and a trillion.
**Call Number:** j513.2 Sch

Illustrated riddles introduce strategies for solving a variety of math problems by using visual clues.
**Call Number:** j793.7 Tan

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH:**

A collection of poetry for teens, about the universal concerns of love and loneliness, acne and braces, and other realities like selling and taking drugs.
**Call Number:** j811.54 Ado

Illustrations and poetic text describe the movement and feel of the game of basketball.
**Call Number:** j811.54 Bur

Everett Anderson wonders how he can help his friend Greg, who appears to be a victim of child abuse.
**Call Number:** PJ Cli

Rhyming text describes the many ways to wiggle.
**Call Number:** PJ Cro

Bird expresses himself through drawing as he struggles to understand his older brother’s drug addiction and death.
**Call Number:** J Ell

Gabby daydreams to tune out her parent’s arguments but when they divorce daydreaming gets her into trouble at her new school.
**Call Number:** J Gri
A collection of poems celebrating the joy and anguish of baseball, basketball, football, ice hockey, soccer, skating, swimming, and running races.
**Call Number:** j811.54 Spo

Lupita takes on more responsibilities for her house as her mother battles cancer. She finds refuge in acting and writing poetry.
**Call Number:** J McC

A brief biography in verse of boxer, Muhammad Ali.
**Call Number:** jB Ali

An African American boy chronicles what happens to his family when his father returns home and the family must deal with their feelings of anger, hope, abandonment, and fear.
**Call Number:** J Smi

A narrative poem about a celebrated baseball player who strikes out at the crucial moment of a game.
**Call Number:** j811.52 Tha

Rhyming text and illustrations explain how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Includes instructions for accompanying hand and foot motions at the end of the book
**Call Number:** j793.4 Wes

**SCIENCE:**

An illustrated poem about the cycle of life.
**Call Number:** PJ Fis

Presents poems about insects such as the inchworm, termite, cricket, and ladybug.
**Call Number:** j811.54 Flo
Poet and anthologist, Lee Bennett Hopkins, takes readers from sunrise to sunset as he presents poems that pay tribute to the sun, moon and stars.
Call Number: j811.6 Sky

Follow a pumpkin patch as it grows and changes, from seeds to plants to pumpkins ready to harvest, to jack-o-lanterns and then to seeds again.
Call Number: PJ Lev

All sorts of animals flutter and hum, dance and stretch and slither and leap their way through this collection of poems.
Call Number: j811.54 Pas

A cumulative poem accompanied by prose that explains how the planting of mangrove trees helped an African village.
Call Number: j577.69 Rot

Musical verses describe different animals that illustrate the wonders of the wild world.
Call Number: PJ Sch

When the teacher tells his class that they can hear the poetry of science in everything, a student is struck with a curse and hears nothing but science verses.
Call Number: PJ Sci

A collection of poems that celebrates the wonder, mystery, and danger of the night. They describe the many things that may hide in the dark.
Call Number: j811.54 Sid

The names of colors are woven into unrhymed poems that celebrate the seasons.
Call Number: j811.54 Sid
In simple rhythmic prose and stylized pictures a cat walks through the world and all the other creatures see and acknowledge the cat.
Call Number: PJ Wen

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Free verse, and chronological poetry that describes the inspiring life and core values of César Chavez. Spanish glossary included.
Call Number: j811.54 Ber

Using original slave auction and estate documents these poems contrast the monetary value of a slave with the priceless value of their life experiences and dreams.
Call Number: J Bry

Based on the diaries and letters of Fredrika Bremer, who spent three months in Cuba. This story focuses on oppressed women, the privileged as well as the enslaved.
Call Number: J Eng

This poem written during World War I, to commemorate the dead includes the history of “Poppy Day” remembrance traditions from 1919 to the present.
Call Number: j811.52 Gra

Highlights the courage and dignity of the African American Pullman porters in the early twentieth century.
Call Number: j811.52 Hug

A heroic crown of sonnets—a sequence in which the last line of one poem becomes the first line of the next, relate the story of Till’s brutal, racially motivated murder.
Call Number: j811.54 Nel

The author reflects on her childhood and development as an artist and young woman influenced by the Civil Rights Movement, the “Red Scare” era, and the feminist movement.

**Call Number: j811.54 Nel**


Poems inspired by the October night when 21-year-old Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, was lured out of a Wyoming bar, savagely beaten, and left to die.

**Call Number: J New**


A collection of poems, focusing on the Middle East, written by more than 100 poets and artists from 19 countries.

**Call Number: j808.81 Spa**


A passport and rhyming text discover differences and similarities for the variety of animals that populate the planet.

**Call Number: j910 Sci**


Presents a treasury of poems and spirituals inspired by the life and work of Civil Rights advocate Fannie Lou Hamer.

**Call Number: jB Hamer**


Jacqueline Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960’s and 1970’s in verse.

**Call Number: J Woo**


Collection of poems and nursery rhymes, in original languages, from around the world.

**Call Number: j808.81 Wri**
SPANISH LANGUAGE:

Ten little puppies are lost one by one, for different reasons, until only one remains.
**Call Number: j398.8 Ada**

A bilingual collection of humorous and serious poems about family, nature, and celebrations by a renowned Mexican American poet.
**Call Number: j811.54 Ala**

A young boy and his sister gather the ingredients and grind them up in a molcajete just like their ancestors did in this cooking poem.
**Call Number: j861.64 Arg**

A wonderful assortment of poems, some presented bilingually, that express Latino culture and the concerns of growing up in the U.S.
**Call Number: j811.54 Coo**

These poems represent famous and lesser known Latinos from varied backgrounds who have faced life’s challenges in creative ways.
**Call Number: j920 Eng**

Bilingual (Spanish/English) book that presents us with a beautiful vision of a planet in which nature, words and the rising and setting of the sun exist in harmony.
**Call Number: j861.7 Luj**

Spanish and English lyrics and music with chord symbols.
**Call Number: j796.1 Die**

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